

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-18 and 23 are pending in the application. Claims 19-22 are newly canceled. No new claims have been added. It is believed that no new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

Restriction requirement

The Office Action restricted pending claims 1-44 into the following groups:

Group I, claims 1-23, drawn to methods for identifying minicell hosts.

Group II, claims 24-30, drawn to methods for increasing the diversity of a minicell DNA library.

Group III, claims 31-35, drawn to methods of screening a minicell library.

Group IV, claims 36-41, drawn to vectors comprising an inducible promoter.

Group V, claims 42 and 43, drawn to a method for making a minicell library using random primers.

Group VI, claim 44, drawn to a method of purifying minicells by density gradient ultracentrifugation.

Applicants have elected Group I, claims 1-23.

The Examiner considers the claims of Group I (1-23), specifically claims 19-22, to constitute an improper Markush group, and has required an election between species for prosecution on the merits. However, the amendments to the claims are believed to moot the species election requirement.

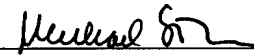
It is believed the application is in condition for examination on the merits and such is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Except for issues payable under 37 C.F.R. 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a constructive petition for extension of time in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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